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News Release

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Hundreds of Injured Military Veterans From Around the Globe Come to Orlando to Compete in the 2016 Invictus Games

VA to provide onsite medical and mental health support to international athletes

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proud to support the over 500 ill and injured military Veterans from 15 Nations who have come to Orlando, Fla. to compete in the 2016 Invictus Games taking place May 8 – 12, 2016 at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex at Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando.

“These Games highlight the perseverance and determination of so many of our allied nations’ disabled and injured military Veterans,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald. “This competition shows exactly how Adaptive Sports greatly improves the quality of life of these heroes and VA is proud to be a part of this movement. We wish all the competitors good luck.”

During the 5-day event, athletes will compete in 10 sporting events. They will compete not only in the spirit of the cordial competition, but also engage in the camaraderie among the competitors and nations. VA will also provide onsite medical and mental health support during the week of competition.

The Invictus Games originated after Britain’s Prince Harry returned from the 2013 USA Warrior Games. Prince Harry realized how the power of sport could physically, psychologically, and socially help an injured service member and created the Invictus Games. “Invictus” means unconquered in Latin. The Games harness the power of sport to inspire recovery, support rehabilitation and generate a wider understanding and respect for those who serve their countries.

VA has led the way in providing Adaptive Sports for over 30 years, teaching Veterans with disabilities about adaptive sports at VA Medical Centers across the country. VA also holds annual rehabilitation programs which are open to U.S. military Veterans with traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, orthopedic amputations, visual impairments, certain neurological problems and other disabilities, who receive care at a VA medical facility or military treatment center. Also, VA has provided over \$47.3 Million in Adaptive Sport Grants to national and community programs all across the country.

To find out more about VA sponsored adaptive sports in your community, visit: <http://www.va.gov/adaptivesports/> or see the national calendar of events at: <http://go.activecalendar.com/adaptivesports>

For more information, on the 2016 Invictus Games, visit www.invictusgames2016.org

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